DPI PROGRAMME Update

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Secretary-General's press conference at Headquarters, ***26 January 1994***

1995 Crime Congress: five preparatory meetings during first quarter of 1994

First International Day of Families to be observed ***15 May, 1994***

PrepCom for World Summit on Social Development starts ***31 January 1994***

Secretary-General urges "real, concrete progress in disarmament" by 1995

The Secretary-General has called for "new thinking" to maintain the momentum in international peace and security and to integrate disarmament in crisis prevention.

In Geneva on 12 January, he told the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters that he was seeking its assessment of ways that the United Nations can encourage positive developments in arms control and disarmament during 1994. He asked for innovative concepts and approaches that could be used "to integrate, globalize, and re-invigorate the debate about disarmament".

"Universal adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) must be our goal", the Secretary-General continued. He warned potential transgressors — non-nuclear States attempting to acquire nuclear weapons — that "it is in their best interest to return to compliance". He also recalled the strong position of principle taken by the Security Council on the question of nuclear proliferation.

The Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters consists of 20 distinguished diplomats, scholars and defence experts who serve in their personal capacity.

(Press releases SG /SM/5 195-DC/2452, and DC /2450, 12 Jan.)

Team spirit, creativity in work of DPI stressed by Samir Sanbar

Addressing DPI staff as he officially assumed Office, Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information, Samir Sanbar, vowed to do his best to consolidate the work of the Department and to develop and involve its staff. Dynamic and versatile staff would be rewarded with opportunities for carreer development. Staff would be recognized for hard work and commitment and not only for ability to network, he said.

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DPI ACTIVITIES

FIELD OFFICES AUTHORIZED IN NINE COUNTRIES

The General Assembly has authorized the establishment of field offices in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Eritrea, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. (A/RES/48/209, 13 December 1993). The resolution says the offices "shall be the field offices of the United Nations development system". It "reaffirms that the resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) shall normally be designated as the resident coordinator".

Public Information Activities

The resolution also reaffirms that "field office activities related to public information, where in place, should follow the relevant provisions of the General Assembly".

In order to undertake public information activities, the Assembly approved eight Professional (Four P-5 and P4) and eight Local-level posts as well as related operating costs, totalling $2.35 million.

Response to Development Needs

The debate in the Second Committee preceding the adoption of the resolution focused on the concern that the offices would be performing "political functions" such as human rights monitoring, and that a "politicized new model" for UN offices in the field was being developed. This was refuted by Nitin Desai, USG for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, who told delegates that "no general legislative mandate of this nature has been conferred with the Secretary-General". He assured delegates that "there is no intention to have such activities form part of the functions of the interim offices, except where specific mandates exist".

Mr. Desai pointed out that the main functions of the offices are to respond to the development needs of the countries concerned, including through humanitarian assistance where required. ***(Press release GA/EF/2617, 9 Nov. 1993).***

N E W S

UNIC *LAGOS* WORKS WITH NIGERIAN ARTISTS

The video "Collective Task", which addresses the situation of women in Nigeria, is a good example of the thriving cooperation between UNIC Lagos and the art world in Nigeria, UNIC Director Ceciwa Khonje told DPI colleagues during a recent visit to Headquarters. The video describes a young girl's struggle with family and tradition as she refuses to be circumcised — a practice very common in many African countries. All parts in the video are played by young actresses and actors from the National Theatre in Lagos. Independent film companies and other art institutions provided technical and artistic assistance to the video, which was originally produced for the World Conference on Human Rights with financial support from DPI, UNFPA and the Netherlands Embassy in Nigeria. The video is appropriate for screening in the promotion of the forthcoming Conference on Population and Development and the Women's Conference.

Opportunity to straighten things out

Often, when Ms. Khonje is invited to speak about the United Nations at schools or other institutions, she is given the liberty to choose her own topic. "I take the opportunity to straighten things out", she says. She addressed the situation in Somalia in order to show the positive side of the UN peacekeeping mission there — a subjects of great interest to Nigerians who contribute forces to UNOSOM.

Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People

United Nations Day (24 October) is the most important UN observance in Nigeria followed by the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November, Ms. Khonje said. At this year's celebration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, Mrs. Joy Ogwu, Professor of International Relations, gave the key-note speech, which was a highly successful event. Among other speakers was Ms. Khonje, who

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addressed the "unimaginable change" which had taken place in the relations between the Palestinian people and Israel. The Secretary-General's message was also read out. The event, which was hosted by UNIC in cooperation with the Arab Group of Ambassadors in Nigeria, took place at the Nigerian Institute of International Relations.

DIRECTOR OF UNIC *LISBON* IS SPOKESMAN DURING ANGOLAN PEACE TALKS

The media protested the secrecy surrounding the recent Angolan peace talks in Lusaka, held outside the spotlight of the press, Carlos dos Santos, Centre Director of UNIC Lisbon told DPI colleagues recently. The press complained that the "black-out" obscured "vital international exposure of the talks on the world's worst humanitarian crisis".

However, the parties to the talks were adamant that they couldn't work in the "glare of the press". As spokesman for Alioune Blondin Beye, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Angola, Mr. dos Santos was assigned to ensure that no information was released.

Commenting on his job in Lusaka, Mr. dos Santos explained that "experience in the field and knowledge of sensitive issues" prepare Centre Directors for assignments in peace-keeping missions.

Angola: Humanitarian Catastrophe

UN-supervised elections were held in Angola at the end of September 1992, but since then the political rivalry has intensified between the Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), resulting in a humanitarian catastrophe. An estimated thousand people daily die of starvation in Angola, which after decades of civil war has become the second largest mine field in the world (Afghanistan is number one).

DPI and Peace-keeping Operations

Using the situation in Angola as an example, Mr. dos Santos said DPI's contribution to peace-keeping missions should be "a tool to end bi-polarity and to prepare society for democracy". If the Angola Peace Accords became a reality today, he pointed out, there would be a need "to change the war mentality" developed through 30 years of civil war. The Angolan society needs a comprehensive civic education promoting democracy and human rights so that it can rebuild itself, he said.

UNIC BRIEFS.....

UNIC Brussels - The Belgian Committee for the 1995 World Conference on Women was launched on 16 December at an official ceremony at the Egmont Palace in Brussels. At the ceremony, the Minister for Employment, Labor and Equal Opportunities and the Foreign Minister underlined the importance of the Conference and the willingness of the Belgian Government to fully participate in the planning activities as well as in the Conference itself.

Ria Heremans, Officer-in-Charge of UNIC, delivered a message specifically prepared for the occasion by Gertrude Mongella, the Secretary-General of the Conference.

UNIC Lisbon - In April 1994, UNIC Lisbon and the Portuguese Christian Youth Organization will hold a 3-day seminar to mark the 1994 International Year of the Family (IYF). Over 500 young people are expected to gather in Lisbon to discuss the problems of the family. Together with the Portuguese National Committee for the IYF, UNIC is acting as a motivator for such events and will provide the seminar with all necessary documents from the IYF Secretariat in Vienna.

Among the highlights in 1993 were a press conference held on 10 December (Human Rights Day) to launch the **ABC of Human Rights** and **Teachings about Human Rights**, translated from Spanish into Portuguese by the NGO, the Portuguese Human Rights League.

A seminar on peace-keeping held by UNIC in June 1993 was attended by UN Ambassador José Luis Jesus of Cape Verde, who addressed the media and NGOs. Brazilian UN peace-keepers were among the guests.

UNIC Lome - The Centre's newly published **African Peace Bulletin No. 6**, which is issued by Centre Régional des Nations Unies pour la Paix et le Désarmement en Afrique, contains articles on peace and security in Rwanda, Burundi, Mozambique, Somalia and South Africa, among other topics.

UN Field Office in Minsk - Mr. Valeri V. Tkatchouk, Senior Information Officer, recently briefed DPI colleagues on the activities of the United Nations field office in Minsk. He raised the question of the growing need for UN information materials in Russian — an official UN language.

The field office in Belarus opened in September 1992. Today, it has a team of nine people, headed by UNDP Resident Coordinator Matthew Kahane (United Kingdom). The office, which has created a dependable relationship with governmental, non-governmental and educational institutions in Belarus, produces a bi-lingual (English/Russian) newsletter. It has also developed activities with the independent Lyceum of Minsk, a network of high-schools located in all five regions of the country. This cooperation has enabled the office to organize lectures, film screenings and even the translation, printing and dissemination of UN publications in Russian, such as **Basic Facts About the United Nations.**

Mr. Tkatchouk proposed that the **DPI Programme Update** be a vehicle for exchange of views and successful initiatives. As an example, he said that reading about UNIC Rio de Janeiro and an internship programme it developed with the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, inspired him to develop a similar relationship with the Faculty of Law of the University of Belarus. Four internships have now been established for students who will work at the field office on drug-trafficking and refugee projects.

UNIC Sydney - A ceremony to honour the Australian United Nations Volunteers (UNVs) who served as Electoral Observers for the UN Observer Mission in Cambodia (UNTAC) during the elections last summer is being organized by UNIC Sydney. Certificates designed by the UNV in Geneva with the name of the volunteer and a note of recognition will be given to the UNVs. The volunteers worked for periods of up to 12 months supervising the elections in Cambodia in an often dangerous and difficult environment.

The Netherlands, Sri Lanka and Canada have held similar ceremonies at which ex-Cambodian UNVs were brought together for a word of appreciation and accompanying publicity.

IDB SAYS IT WILL DOUBLE FINANCING FOR SOCIAL PROGRAMMES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Responds to Findings from Joint Forum on Poverty and Social Reform

The findings from a joint forum to examine the issue of social reform and poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean are proving to be so significant that the Inter American Development Bank (IDB) intends to double the amount of loans and finances it gives to programmes with social targets in the region.

Aware that the question of social development was emerging as the central theme in the development agenda of the countries of the region, the Bank, along with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), organized the Forum, entitled "Social Reform and Poverty: Towards and Integrated Development Agenda", in Washington D.C., from 10-13 February 1993. A book, **Social Reform and Poverty**, based on the contributions and conclusions of the three-day meeting was launched on 6 December at UN Headquarters.

In a preparatory document presented at the Washington Forum, the UNDP and IDB experts characterize poverty as the most extreme form of exclusion of individuals from the mainstream of productive processes, social integration and access to opportunity. They emphasize the need for action directed at the structural causes of such poverty, which they say limits the opportunities available to individuals and seriously restricts possibilities for

the social mobility of children born and raised in poor homes. They also point out that long term political stability depends on how countries address poverty alleviation.

"A great deal of political will is required to address the issue of social reform and poverty in these countries", says Fernando Zumbado, UNDP's Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, where a quarter of the population still earns under $2.00 per day. Dealing with the problem in the short term, could lead to political instability, he says, because those who have privileges would have to give them up to make way for reform. He asserts that a "social consensus is necessary to make reforms a viable proposition".

Poverty in Latin America - Legacy of History

The UNDP/IADB experts confirm that there is more poverty in the region today than at the beginning of the 1980's. More people have incomes below the poverty line, and the percentage of those who cannot even satisfy their basic needs has risen. According to estimates in a 1990 survey by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the number of Latin Americans below the poverty line stands at 196 million, representing 45.9 per cent of the total population, an increase of 2.5 per cent over the 1986 level. What's more, say UN specialists, "poverty in Latin America is a legacy of the region's history", and they attribute its causes to such structural factors as uneven distribution of wealth; differences in education and culture; uneven availability of opportunities; socially staggered access to the benefits of progress, and the State's inability to effectively correct social imbalances.

United Nations experts counsel that effective social reform programmes must overcome obstacles resulting from the structure of Latin American societies and urge support for "a new development model in which social and economic reform complement and strengthen each other with a single rationale for efficiency and equity".

Economic Reform Insufficient

Some Latin American countries are already showing signs of progress in social reform, says the IDB. In four years, 1 million Chileans crossed over the poverty line into a better life; Mexico, Bolivia and some Central American countries have launched programmes to combat poverty and to decentralize social expenditures, and Jamaica is developing new possibilities through better economy-wide management and infusion of internal and external capital. The experts caution that "if the period of expansion now beginning in the region is to be prevented from foundering in political frustrations, capital flight and the migration of highly educated and trained manpower, a development strategy must now be adopted to gradually reduce the incidence of inequities and exclusions found in Latin American societies".

"What one sees in Latin America today is a commitment by the political forces to make social reform a central issue for policy in the future", says the IDB President Enrique Iglesias. At a December briefing to introduce the newly published report, Social Reform Poverty to the UN press corps, the IDB Chief said the report's findings show that "economic reform is important but not sufficient to make social reform and equity work in Latin America".

The Washington Forum on Social Reform and Poverty brought together more than 400 high government officials, specialists, representatives of international agencies and a diverse representation of civil society. In a prologue to the new report, convenors say the event "provoked much consultation and reflection between the different actors...who share the responsibility for the design and execution of strategies, programmes and policies oriented towards the transformation and development of the region".

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SOCIAL SUMMIT

WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Copenhagen, 6-12 March, 1995

.....FIRST PREPCOM TO BE HELD 31 JANUARY TO 11 FEBRUARY, 1994 IN NEW YORK .....

Poverty, employment and **social integration** are the three core issues to be discussed at the Social Summit in Copenhagen in March 1995. The Summit Secretariat is headed by Jacques Baudot in the United Nations Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (DPCSD) in New York, under the responsibility of USG Nitin Desai.

Three PrepComs will be held in New York to prepare for the Summit (31 January to 11 February 1994; 22 August to 2 September 1994; and 16-27 January 1995). Participants will consider a number of reports. They will draft the provisional agenda, and prepare the draft decisions for the final document which will be signed by Heads of State and Government meeting in Copenhagen.

Ambassador Juan O. Somavia of Chile is the Chairman of the PrepCom's Bureau which consists of nine Vice-Chairmen (Cameroon, Zimbabwe, India, Indonesia, Poland, the Netherlands, Australia, Mexico and Latvia).

LATEST DOCUMENTS

Report of the Secretary-General: World Summit for Social Development: An Overview (A/Conf.166/PC/6, 14 Dec.1993)
Social development cannot be pursued in an economy that is stagnant or prone to high inflation and instability, the Secretary-General writes in his report. It is therefore essential to revive a growth which promotes social progress in the broadest sense. In order to do this, investment in people must be placed at the centre of policy, he says.

Fact Sheet on the World Summit for Social Development, (DPI 1427, Rev 1, Dec. 1993).
This leaflet provides the basic information about the Social Summit. It contains guidelines on how NGOs can participate in the Summit.(See enclosures, pg.11)

Under Preparation: bi-monthly DPI newsletter on the main Conferences (Small Island States, Barbados, 1994 Population and Development, Cairo 1994; Social Development, Copenhagen 1995; Women, Beijing 1995; United Nations 50th Anniversary, 1995).

For further information about the Social Summit:

NGOs:

The UN Secretariat of the World Summit for Social Development,
NGO Unit/DPCSD, Room DC2-2340,
New York, New York 10017
FAX: (212) 963 3892

Others:

Secretariat of the World Summit for Social Development,
DPCSD, Room S 3060
TEL: (212) 963-5855
FAX: (212) 963 1010
or
Development and Human Rights, DPI, Room S-1040
FAX: (212) 963 4556

HUMAN RIGHTS

UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The General Assembly created the post of High Commissioner for Human Rights under resolution A/RES/48/141, adopted on 20 December 1993.

The Secretary-General will now appoint the High Commissioner to serve a four-year term at the rank of USG. He or she will coordinate the United Nations human rights activities and supervise the Centre for Human Rights in Geneva.

The resolution says the High Commissioner will possess the understanding of diverse cultures necessary for impartial, objective, non-selective and effective performance. He or she will be guided by the recognition that all human rights — civil, cultural, economic, political and social — are universal, indivisible, independent and interrelated.

MEETINGS IN GENEVA:

17-28 JANUARY

Two working groups of the Commission on Human Rights

31 JANUARY - 11 MARCH

50th session of the Commission on Human Rights

UN DOCUMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Report of the Human Rights Committee, (A/48/40, part II, 1 Nov. 1993).
Contains the views and decisions of the Human Rights Committee on States' adherence of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights covering the period from November 1992 to July 1993.

Reports of the Secretary-General:

Human Rights in the administration of justice, (A/48/575, 9 Nov., 1993).
Describes the services available in the UN system to assist Member States in implementing existing international human rights standards. The UN Centre for Human Rights, the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities are the most important UN bodies carrying out such services.

Forty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, (A/48/506, 1 Dec. 1993).
In his report, the Secretary-General says measures have been taken to improve the effectiveness of existing UN human rights mechanisms. Since 1988, two new UN bodies, the Committee against Torture and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, were established to ensure better protection of the rights under the Universal Declaration.

Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections, (A/48/590, 18 Nov. 1993).
This report lists requests by Member States (17 October 1992 through 16 October 1993) for electoral assistance by the United Nations. It says the high volume of requests shows that the UN has gained "significant international recognition" of its "unique potential" for providing electoral assistance.

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, (A/48/520, 4 Nov. 1993).
This is the Secretary-General's annual report on the management of the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, including information on funds available, pledges and contributions received. The Fund was established by the General Assembly under resolution 36/151 of 16 Dec. 1981. (A/36/40).

Afghanistan

Situation of human rights in Afghanistan, (A/48/584, 16 Nov. 1993).
Interim report on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan prepared by Mr. Felix Ermacora, Special Rapporteur of the Commission of Human Rights. He concludes that "the situation of human rights in Afghanistan is far from being satisfactory" and recommends that the "UN should offer advisory services and technical assistance concerning the drafting of the constitution and holding direct elections ..."

HUMAN RIGHTS

Cuba

Situation of Human Rights in Cuba, (A/48/562, 5 Nov. 1993).
The Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, Carl-Johan Groth, says in this report that "the Government of Cuba still refuses to accept the Commission on Human Rights decision to continue monitoring human rights conditions in Cuba and rejects all cooperation with the Special Rapporteur". Among his recommendations to the Cuban Government are that it ratify the principal human rights instruments to which Cuba is not a party, and that it review sentences imposed on political prisoners and on those trying to leave the country illegally.

Haiti

Situation of Human Rights in Haiti, A/48/561, 10 Nov. 1993).
The Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights situation in Haiti, Professor Marco Tulio Bruni Celli, reports that human rights violations in Haiti continued throughout 1993 despite the signing of the Governors Island Agreement and the New York Pact. He recommends that the UN continue to observe and report human rights violations in Haiti and that a programme to promote human rights be set up to train military, police and prison authorities.

Myanmar

Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar, (A/48/578, 16 Nov. 1993)
The Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar, Professor Yozo Yokota, reports that the thousand persons detained during the mass demonstrations of 1988 and 1990 have now been released. However, many arrests of persons attempting to voice political dissent have been reported in 1993. Torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment has allegedly taken place in connection with these arrests, the report says. The Special Rapporteur asks the Government of Myanmar to allow an international presence at any possible future trials.

Iran

Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, (A/48/526/Add.1, 17 Nov. 1993).
This is the response by Iran to the interim report of the UN Human Rights Commission on the situation of human rights in Iran.

Iraq

Situation of Human Rights in Iraq, (A/48/600, 18 Nov. 1993) and (A/48/600/Add.1, 19 Nov. 1993).
The Special Rapporteur on human rights in Iraq, Max van der Stoel, concludes in his report that the Government of Iraq has "acted in a discriminatory fashion in its distribution of food and health care to the benefit of certain strata throughout the country and to the detriment of the human rights of the general populations living in the northern and southern parts of the country". The addendum contains the response of the Government of Iraq.

Sudan

Situation of Human Rights in the Sudan, (A/48/601, 18 Nov. 1993).
The Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Sudan, Gáspár Bíró, says that "grave violations of human rights have taken place in the Sudan, including large numbers of extrajudicial killings, summary executions, enforced or involuntary disappearances, systematic torture and widespread arbitrary arrest of suspected opponents". He calls on the Government of Sudan and all parties involved to agree on a cease-fire and to ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all those in need.

Former Yugoslavia

Situation of Human Rights in the Territory of Former Yugoslavia. (S/26765, 20 Nov. 1993).
Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human rights, reports that the Muslim community in Bosnia and Herzegovina is "threatened with extermination". He calls on the international community to ensure that the Tribunal on former Yugoslavia prosecute violations of humanitarian law in the territory.

Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991. (A/C.5/48/44, 8 Dec. 1993).
This report describes the activities of the Tribunal, its composition and cost estimates for its operation. The Tribunal meets in The Hague from 17 january to 4 February, 1994.

NGO SECTION

NGO briefing on 9 December 1993 on Humanitarian Assistance in Armed Conflicts.

Speaker: Jan Elisasson, USG for Humanitarian Affairs

The end of the Cold War and the beginning of democracy around the world are the two revolutionary changes which have greatly affected UN activities, Jan Eliasson told NGO representatives at Headquarters. In 1991, the General Assembly adopted a landmark resolution which provided the tools for effective humanitarian action. It created the Department of Humanitarian Affairs; the Central Emergency revolving Fund of $50 million; and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee — a body of major actors in the humanitarian field, including NGOs.

The Security Council is now able to address world problems faster because the five Permanent Members have limited their use of the veto when voting on a resolution, he pointed out. More and more frequently, the Council invokes Chapter VII of the UN Charter to ensure delivery of humanitarian assistance. The UN is currently providing humanitarian assistance to about 30 countries and trying to help nearly 60 million people.

However, there is also a dark side to the end of the ideological struggle, Mr. Eliasson said. In many countries, ethnic, tribal and religious conflicts have broken out after the cold war. The world has entered a period in which peace can only be achieved by healing the deep ethnic, political and cultural rifts.

UN as Moral and Ethical Force

In this new environment, the world is looking towards the UN as the moral and ethical force, which can now provide humanitarian relief as part of a long term rehabilitation process, Mr. Eliasson said. The legitimacy of international humanitarian assistance to people is no longer questioned. Humanitarian action by the UN can also — apart from bringing relief — be a catalyst for resolving conflicts and restoring security, he stressed. For that purpose, the UN should seek to integrate peace-keeping, peace-making and humanitarian action and undertake them simultaneously to maximize the effect.

Prevention of Emergencies

More attention should be devoted to prevention and finding the root causes of emergencies, instead of constantly dealing with the symtoms. "Prevention will not only eliminate a great deal of suffering, but also save a great deal of money", Mr. Eliasson said.

The massive flow of refugees and displaced persons is a central feature of most humanitarian emergencies, he said. There is currently 19 million refugees crossing borders, and more than 23 million displaced persons inside countries. Mr. Eliasson warned that this figure is expected to increase to 50 or 60 million by the end of the century as a result of religious conflicts around the world, poverty, environmental degradation such as drought (Southern Africa), and technological disasters (Chernobyl).

Humanitarian Assistance and UN reform

The UN's humanitarian activities must strike a balance between solidarity and sovereignty, he said, recalling that the Organization was founded on the principles of respect for sovereignty and non-interference. Consequently, humanitarian diplomacy is a dynamic way of gaining access to people in distress by negotiating "humanitarian corridors" and "safe havens".

Mr. Eliasson emphasized the need to improve coordination of humanitarian assistance. He called on the NGO community and other actors to become involved and to bring their own perspective and knowledge to relief operations.

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1995 CRIME CONGRESS to Address Violent, Organized, and Environmental Crime

Five preparatory meetings to be held during first quarter of 1994

The Ninth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders will be held in early 1995. During ten days of meetings, participants will consider the following four themes:

- International cooperation and practical technical assistance for strengthening the rule of law;

- Action against national and transnational economic and organized crime, and the role of criminal law in the protection of the environment;

- Improvement of the management of criminal justice systems;

- Strategies for preventing urban crime, violent criminality and juvenile crime.

During the Congress, workshops will discuss extradition and international cooperation; mass media and crime prevention; urban policy; prevention of violent crime; the role of criminal law in environmental protection; and international cooperation in the management of criminal justice systems, including computerization of such systems.

Egypt and Tunisia have offered to host the Crime Congress. The Economic and Social Council is expected to decide on precise dates and a venue for the Congress in early 1994.

In April 1994, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice will hold its third session to consider the recommendations of the five regional meetings and to finalize the programme of the Congress.

Five regional preparatory meetings for the Ninth Crime Congress will take place as follows:

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC:
Bangkok, Thailand, 17-21 January 1994

AFRICA:
Kampala, Uganda,
14-18 February 1994

EUROPE:
Vienna, Austria,
28 February - 4 March 1994

LATIN AMERICA:
San Jose, Costa Rica,
7-11 March 1994

WESTERN ASIA:
Amman, Jordan,
20-24 March 1994

CONTROLLING PROCEEDS OF CRIME

Another meeting in preparation for the Crime Congress is the International Conference on Laundering and Controlling the Proceeds of Crime to be held at Courmayeur, Acosta Valley in Italy, in mid-June 1994. The Conference aims to raise awareness of the risks posed by crime and to examine the problems faced by financial institutions and Governments in controlling the proceeds of crime.

The Conference is being organized by the Italian Government and the International Scientific and Professional Council under the auspices of the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch.

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COUNTRIES GIVE SUPPORT TO INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FAMILY

A growing number of countries have begun activities in support of the 1994 International Year of the Family (IYF), launched by the General Assembly on 7 December, 1993. The theme is "Families: resources and responsibilities in a changing world".

National launchings of the Year have been held by Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, Luxembourg, Russian Federation and the Slovak Republic, while the Holy See held worldwide inaugurations of the Year with a ceremony telecast on satellite. Launchings will also be held in Belarus, France, Hungary, Iceland, Netherlands and Sweden.

Preparations have begun for the first International Day of Families on 15 May, to be observed every year.

In some countries, launchings of the year have coincided with the completion of national reports on the state of the family, while in others they have marked the entry into force of new family laws.

UNIC Lisbon translated the bulletin and the press kit into Portuguese, UNIC Jakarta prepared local versions of IYF materials in Bahasa Indonesia.

A new Press kit on the IYF (DPI/1432, Nov. 1993) can be obtained by contacting:

The Development and Human Rights Section, DPI
TEL: (212) 963 0353

ENCLOSURES TO UNICS:

FAX Alert Islands

Update on the first global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island States, Vol.1994, Issue 1.

Fact Sheet

The World Summit for Social Development.
FAX: (212) 963-4556

FAO WARNS OF FOOD SHORTAGES IN MANY COUNTRIES IN 1994

At least 20 nations in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe and the Middle East are suffering from serious food shortages that threaten millions of people with starvation and malnutrition, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) says. By contrast, according to the latest report, Food Outlook, the overall food situation has improved in Somalia.

The distribution of food to the starving and malnourished is said to be the problem, as there is "plenty of food to feed all of the world's 5.4 billion people", the report says.

(Press release FAO/3586, 22 Dec. 1993).

"GREEN ACCOUNTING" Published by the UN

A new book on the economics of pollution and natural resources determining who benefits and who pays, has been published by the UN Statistical Division. Entitled **Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting,** the new book presents a complementary system to the 1993 System of National Accounts. Those accounts have long been used to prepare key economic measures of gross domestic product (GDP). They have never taken adequately into account the costs of pollution, depletion of natural resources and extinction of species and habitat, or the availability of "environmental services" for health and recreation. The Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro called for the development and use of an integrated system of environmental and economic accounts.

The publication is available from United Nations publications, New York and Geneva.

(Sales no. E.93.XVII.12)

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ASG's ADDRESS TO DPI...

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Recognizing the challenges faced by DPI at a time of increasing demands and decreasing resources, Mr. Sanbar urged that the Department "sharpen its focus on selected issues" and work closely with other UN Departments. He said that "fragmented, we will not be able to carry out our task, but united we will succeed".

Stressing the inter-relationship between Headquarters and the UN field offices, Mr. Sanbar said that as "carriers of the message of the United Nations", the UN Information Centres (UNICs) were an extremely important element.

Mr. Sanbar has been serving as Officer-in-Charge of DPI since 9 November 1993.
(BIO/2829, PI/830).

SOCIAL PROGRAMMES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN...

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Social Reform and Poverty, which was published in Spanish only, is a sales item and is not being shipped to UNICs. A copy of the 40-page joint UNDP/IDB preparatory document for the Washington meeting, annexed to the book, is being sent only to Centres in Latin America and the Caribbean. Other UNICs who wish to have a copy of this document should contact:

Centres Programmes Section
Room S-1060I
TEL: (212) 963-6855
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By Yvonne Duncan, Regional Desk Officer for Latin America and the Caribbean

NGO SECTION...

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Scheduled Briefings.....

20 January:

The 48th Session of the General Assembly.
***Speaker: Ambassador Samuel Insanally,* President of the 48th Session of the General Assembly.**

27 January:

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS.

Speakers:

***Mustapha Tlili*, Chief, Anti-Apartheid, Palestinian and Decolonization Section, DPI.**

***Ambassador Keba Birane Cisse* of Senegal, Chairman of the Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.**

***Arie Tenne*, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations.**

***Muin Shreim*, Counselor, the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations**

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DPI PROGRAMME UPDATE

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